

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen and Supervisory Examiner Mayes for the thoughtful courtesies and kind treatments afforded to Applicants' representatives, Babak Akhlaghi and Seiji Hamada, during the personal interview conducted on November 23, 2010. This response reflects the substance of the interview.

Patentability - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 2-7, 11-14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0138679 ("Prased"). Alternatively, claims 2-7, 11-14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Prased. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

During the interview, Applicants' representatives and the Examiners discussed the possibility of amending claim 2 to recite a fuel tank that includes, among other features, a flow path opening and closing member including a fuel valve and a closing valve, the fuel valve being provided in the fuel injection portion and the closing valve being provided in the fuel injection portion, the fuel valve being located between the tank container and the closing valve along the flow path for the liquid fuel, wherein: the closing valve is configured to engage with the fuel supply portion and to open before the fuel valve opens when the fuel injecting portion and the fuel supply portion are being connected, and the closing valve is configured to close after the fuel valve closes when the fuel injecting portion and the fuel supply portion are being

disconnected. The Examiners agreed that this amendment overcomes the above-stated rejections of claim 2. In reliance on this agreement, Applicants have amended claim 2 to include the above-recited features.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 2, along with its dependent claims.

Claim 11 has been amended to include features similar to the above-recited features of claim 2. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 2, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 11, along with its dependent claims.

Claims 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prased in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0082421 (“Yonetsu”). Claims 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prased in view of JP 2004-192171 (“Kazunori”). Claims 8, 9, 15, and 16 variously depend from claims 2 and 11. Therefore, claims 8, 9, 15, and 16 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 2 and 11.

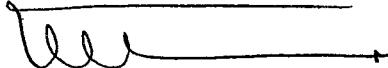
Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner’s amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants’ attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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